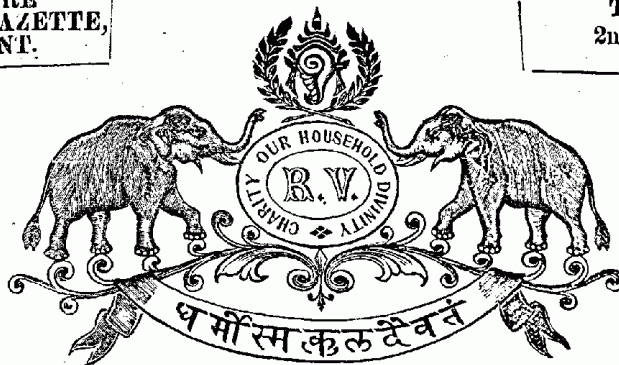




## Abstract Proceedings of the Travancore Legislative Council.

The Council met in the Dewan's room, Public Offices, at 1 p. m. on Saturday  
the 16th May 1896.  
4th Vykasi 1071.

PRESENT.

The Dewan ... .. Presiding.

M. R. Ry. K. Krishnaswamy Rao Avergal, Dewan Bahadur., F. M. U.  
M. R. Ry. V. Nagam Aiyar Avergal, B. A., F. R. H. S.  
M. R. Ry. P. Thanu Pillai Avergal, M. A.  
Mr. O. H. Bensley, B. A.  
M. R. Ry. Rama Vurma Avergal, F. M. U., Rajah of Perapanad.  
M. R. Ry. R. Ramanatha Rao Avergal.

Secretary.—I beg to announce that the Bill to extend greater protection to Judges, Magistrates and others acting judicially and the Bill to provide for the punishment of public gambling and the keeping of common gaming-houses, passed by the Council on the 17th March 1896, received the Royal assent on the 23rd Idem and have become law as Regulations II and III of 1071 respectively—the first with effect from the passing thereof and the second from the 1st Vykasi 1071.

He then submitted the following papers which were taken as read, copies having been previously circulated.

1. Suggestions on the Penal Code Bill from Mr. Raja Raja Vurma of Haripad.
2. Petition on the Penal Code Bill from Shungra Narayanan, Madaven and others of Vilavankod Taluq.
3. Memorial of the members of the Church and London Missionary Societies of Travancore regarding the provisions *re* places of public worship in the Penal Code Bill.
4. Amendments to the Penal Code Bill by Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao.

Besides the papers already laid on the table I have to submit a letter from the Rev. J. Duthie in which he explains why the memorial forwarded by him purporting to be from the London and Church Mission Societies does not bear the signatures of all the members concerned. He states that another copy with the remaining signatures will follow. This has since been received and I beg to place it before the Council.

The Secretary then read the letter.

### THE BILL TO AMEND THE FOREST REGULATION II OF 1068.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I beg to move that as resolved at the last meeting the Forest Bill be taken into consideration. I have already stated that this is a very

small Bill and involves no modifications of any serious or controversial character. No amendments have been proposed and I would move that the Bill be passed by the Council.

Seconded by Mr. Bensley.

Carried.

### THE IRRIGATION BILL.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I beg to move that the further consideration of the Irrigation Bill be proceeded with. I think it would facilitate the progress of the Bill and would be a great advantage if the Council would go through it, section by section.

Mr. Rama Vurma.—Why should we adopt that course? We may, as usual, deal with the amendments on the paper and pass on to the next Bill. I do not think this is generally done in the Madras Council. It would be a waste of time to go through every section. The Penal Code Bill has to be considered. It is a very important Bill.

President.—The Irrigation Bill is no less important. It is an original measure and needs all caution. When the Bill is gone through, as proposed by Mr. Thanu Pillai, many points may strike the Council which may otherwise escape. There is no absolute prohibition against such a procedure.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—If I remember rightly the same procedure was adopted in the case of the Madras District Municipalities Bill.

The motion was put and agreed to.

#### PREAMBLE AND SECTION 1.

Read and passed.

#### SECTION 2.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—I have an amendment in 1 (d). It is this: Insert the words 'or benefit' between 'protection' and 'of' in the 3rd line and omit the words 'from flood or from erosion.'

The conditions of agriculture in Travancore are so diverse that a particular work may not, strictly speaking, be calculated to protect a given tract from 'flood or erosion' and yet may be such as to be clearly indispensable for successful cultivation. For instance, I understand that in certain parts in the North, provision has often to be made for keeping out salt water. A work intended for this purpose may not fall within (d) as it now stands. The proposed amendment would render it sufficiently comprehensive.

Mr. Rama Vurma.—This is an Irrigation Bill and we should, I think, confine ourselves to protection from 'flood or erosion.'

Mr. Ramanatha Rao.—I fear the amendment, especially the addition of 'or benefit,' makes the definition too vague and general.

President.—What has to be borne in mind is that it is not at all easy to compass all the conditions in the definition. A certain amount of such vagueness is therefore unavoidable.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Nagam Aiya.

Carried.

President.—The definition of 'Major Irrigation work' requires careful consideration. Subject to the '200 acres' limit, all main irrigation channels &c., in whatever part of the State, are brought under the term, *pro tanto* augmenting the responsibility of Government in regard to their construction, repair and maintenance as laid down in section 20. The responsibility, you will observe, is imperative and unqualified. Government cannot of course be too careful in accepting such a vast responsibility all at once. The qualifying word 'main' is not sufficiently restrictive. At present it is only in South Travancore that Government undertake the maintenance and repair of such works at their entire cost. In Shencottah, the ryots have